

MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

Mission and Care Leeds Partnership Meeting held online on Wednesday 2nd September 2020

On a rainy evening it was good to meet via Zoom rather than leave the comfort of home for the 27 representatives of 7 of our churches, together with Rev Samantha Sheehan, chaplain to Leeds universities and working with 18-25 year olds in the Synod.

Revd Clare Davison welcomed us all and to the meeting and the Moderator Jamie Kissack, whose **Induction will take place on Sat 5th Sept.**

Opening worship was led by Revd Angela Hughes who reflected that the past months had served to confirm for us all that the church is not the buildings but the people and that, despite appearances, throughout the pandemic, churches have not been closed but have been open and evident in the community.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th November, 7.30pm, probably on Zoom

Don't forget:

Yorkshire Synod Café

Sat 12th Sept 9.30-12noon via Zoom.
To register for a link email office@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Synod Church secretaries chat Wed 9th Sept 2-3pm and Wed 23rd Sept 6.30- 7.30pm. Contact Val Morrison for Zoom link

The meeting closed with prayers at 8.50pm; conversations continued in breakout rooms!

Presentation

Sheana and Max Dudley offered a most interesting presentation, by illustrating the work of all our churches in these past months. It was most gratifying to hear that every church had responded to the request for information. To view this presentation please go to, <https://youtu.be/ayQwIYjlsbk>

Reflection on stories shared in the Presentation

Worship and the maintenance of contacts within fellowships and beyond had been varied. We were invited to consider

- ✚ what has been learned, and what can be retained?
- ✚ how can we move forward into a changed world where the old familiar experience of going to church is likely to be different for a long time?

Many useful comments were made resulting in a request that discussions should be held in elders and church groups and that feedback and proposals be shared. They included the following:

- How can we use the lockdown experience to reach those who do not normally come into church?
- The need to cater for those who feel inclined NOT to go into a church.
- The need to think of the church as a body of people coming together.
- As a partnership we have a number of small churches – are there ways of sharing resources and working together?
- Weekly hard copy worship resources shared.
- Zoom had been very useful to a number of churches.
- Bible studies could be shared via Zoom.
- Services in churches live filmed on zoom.
- Services loaded on to YouTube.
- A way of ending the divide always evident between those who can physically get to church and those who for various reasons cannot.
- Zoom services need to be shorter and more focused.
- Zoom as a Mission tool can be used to reach younger people.
- How can we provide a mixture of opportunities for people?

There is much that the churches can do to move forward, we are encouraged not to sit and wait but to make those moves which seem right in each particular situation always making such decisions sensitively and prayerfully seeking God's way for us.